



3
BT
01-09-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Toshiki KINDO et al.

Group Art Unit: 2163

Serial No. : 09/964,797

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Filed : September 28, 2001

For : MARKET RESEARCH SYSTEM, MERCHANDISE
INFORMATION EVALUATION SYSTEM AND E-
COMMERCE SYSTEM PROVIDED THEREWITH.

RECEIVED

DEC 31 2001

Group 2100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56 and §§1.97-1.98, the
Applicants hereby call the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-003394, to Hitachi Ltd., published
January 7, 2000. An English language abstract is provided;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2000-231590, to Taikodo KK., published
August 22, 2000. An English language abstract is provided;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 10-240825, to Chescom International
KK., published September 11, 1998. An English language abstract is provided; and

P21481.A01

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 09-288683, to Matsushita Electric Ind. Co. Ltd., published November 4, 1997. The relevance of this publication can be found on page 18 of the specification. An English language abstract is provided.

Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicants with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicants also call the following copending, commonly assigned application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/738,771 to KINDO et al., filed on December 18, 2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the specification, claims, and drawings of the above-mentioned co-pending application are attached hereto. The Examiner is, none-the-less, encouraged to review the file wrapper of this U.S. patent application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. If for any reason the Examiner cannot locate the application, the Applicants will provide any requested materials, if possible.

P21481.A01

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Toshiki KINDO et al.

Willm E. Lytle Reg. No.
Bruce H. Bernstein 41,568
Reg. No. 29,027

December 18, 2001
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1941 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

[illegible]